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NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			PILLAI, NAMITHA	
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DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/833,651	Applicant(s) NAKAI ET AL.	
	Examiner Namitha Pillai	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 10-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's submission on 5/1/06 including amendments to claim 1. Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are rejected. Claim 9 has been previously allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claim 1 as amended on 11/10/05 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The amended claim(s) contains subject matter, specifically in reference to the feature of print conditions being displayed on the display picture in a recognizable display form "**when the file icon is not located over the print icon**" which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Since claims 2 and 10 depend on claim 1 and include all of the limitations of this claim, claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and clearly convey the claimed subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The amendments to claim 1, specifically in reference to the phrase "***which limits on a specific function amount print processing functions***" does not properly convey what is the intended teaching by the Applicant. The amendment does indicate that a specific function is limited to the icon representing the print icon and the icon has print processing functions but it is not clear what the term "***amount***" is referring to and how "***amount***" relates to specific function and print processing functions.

Since claims 2 and 10 depend on claim 1 and include all of the limitations of this claim, claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,546,527 (Fitzpatrick et al.), herein referred to as Fitzpatrick and U. S. Patent No. 5,638,505 (Hemenway et al.), herein referred to as Hemenway.

Referring to claim 1, Fitzpatrick discloses a print control operation system using icons including a display picture for displaying a print icon having predetermined

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print conditions and a file icon of a file to be printed, print processing of the file being executed under the predetermined print conditions in the print icon by dragging the file icon and dropping the file icon on the print icon (Figure 4 and column 1, lines 21-30). Fitzpatrick discloses that print icon is formed so that the display is altered to a setting of the print conditions, wherein the print icon is formed to have default print conditions (column 1, lines 27-30). Fitzpatrick discloses that the print icons represents specific functions related to print processing functions provided in a corresponding printer (column 1, lines 22-30), with the corresponding printer containing specific functions that are applied to the printing process of the file to be printed. Fitzpatrick discloses that the print command as a function is issued specifying the file icon for the printer when the file icon is dragged and dropped on the print icon (column 1, lines 22-30). Fitzpatrick also discloses the predetermined print conditions in the print icon being displayed on the display picture in a recognizable display form (Figure 4 and column 2, lines 11-13) but discloses that the print conditions are displayed by locating the file icon on the print icon. Hemenway carries out the same methods as disclosed by Fitzpatrick of dragging and dropping a file icon on to a print icon in order to print the contents of the file icon (column 1, lines 65-67 and column 2, lines 1-5). Hemenway in addition to that, also displays the print conditions in a recognizable display form when the file icon is not located over the print icon, wherein this print information is always displayed (reference number 46, Figure 3A). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to display the print conditions in a recognizable display form when the file icon is not located over the print icon. Hemenway and Fitzpatrick both teach printing

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files through icon manipulation, wherein a file icon is dragged and dropped onto a print icon in order for that distinct printer to print the file. Hemenway furthermore allows for the user to view the print conditions without an additional dragging process, wherein this convenient method can be beneficial in Fitzpatrick's disclosure, wherein the user can view the print conditions before dragging the file icon. Furthermore, Fitzpatrick teaches prior art and well known methods in the field of printer processing, wherein the user had access to a printer icon containing printer conditions, wherein a direct access of the user by clicking on this printer icon would allow for the print conditions to be displayed on the display picture in a recognizable display form when the file icon is not located over the print icon (column 1, lines 35-50). Hemenway further teaches the methods as discussed above.

Referring to claim 2, Fitzpatrick discloses that at a time point when a file icon of a file to be printed is superposed on the print icon, an outline of the print conditions preset in the print icon are displayed on the display picture (Figure 4 and column 2, lines 32-37).

Referring to claim 10, Fitzpatrick discloses that a time point when a file icon of a file to be printed is superposed on the print icon, a printing preview of the file icon is displayed on the display picture, wherein the print parameters which apply to the file icon for printing inherently teaches a preview means for the previewing of the file icon (Figure 4), further as per the present claims, a preview is available of the file icon, wherein the file icon is displayed to the user when the file icon is superposed onto the printer icon as shown in Figure 3, wherein this display of the file icon allows the user to

have a print preview of the file icon, wherein the file that is to be printed, is previewed, thus teaching a printing preview of the file icon.

5. Claims 3, 5-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fitzpatrick.

Referring to claim 3, Fitzpatrick discloses a print control operation system using icons including a display picture for displaying a print icon having predetermined print conditions and a file icon of a file to be printed, print processing of the file being executed under the predetermined print conditions in the print icon by dragging the file icon and dropping the file icon on the print icon (Figure 4 and column 1, lines 21-30). Fitzpatrick discloses that the print conditions in the print icon are displayed on the display picture in a recognizable display form (Figure 4 and column 2, lines 11-13). Fitzpatrick discloses at a time point a file icon of a file to be printed is superposed on the print icon, a printing preview of the file icon is displayed on the display picture, wherein the print parameters which apply to the file icon for printing inherently teaches a preview means for the previewing of the file icon (Figure 4), further as per the present claims, a preview is available of the file icon, wherein the file icon is displayed to the user when the file icon is superposed onto the printer icon as shown in Figure 3, wherein this display of the file icon allows the user to have a print preview of the file icon, wherein the file that is to be printed, is previewed, thus teaching a printing preview of the file icon. Fitzpatrick disclose displaying a printing preview of the file icon but does not disclose providing preview data that displays what is contained within this file icon. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, to

disclose providing a preview of file item associated with a file icon when the file icon is superposed on a printer icon. Fitzpatrick has already disclosed providing a preview of print conditions associated with one of the icons, being the print icon without actually having to open the application in order to view the print data. Therefore, Fitzpatrick has taught previewing of data associated with icons when a distinct icon is superposed over another icon. With this teaching in Fitzpatrick and the user's desire to preview data to be printed, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to apply the previewing of print conditions to those of the contents of the file icon. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to disclose displaying a print preview of items associated with the file icon when the file icon is superposed on to the print icon.

Referring to claim 5, Fitzpatrick discloses when a file icon of a file to be printed is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a window for setting print conditions of the print icon is opened (column 2, lines 47-50 and Figure 4).

Referring to claim 6, Fitzpatrick discloses when a file is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a printer capable of conducting print processing is automatically selected based on print conditions set in the print icon, wherein once the file icon is dropped onto a print icon, from within the parameters disclosed, the specific printer is determined (column 4, lines 1-4).

Referring to claim 7, Fitzpatrick discloses when a tile icon is dragged and dropped on the print icon, a printer capable of conducting a print processing is

automatically selected from among printers in a stand-by state, based on print conditions set is the print icon (column 3, lines 58-60 and column 4, lines 1-4).

Referring to claim 8, Fitzpatrick discloses a printer to be used is set in the print icon as one of set conditions of the print icon (column 4, lines 1-4). Fitzpatrick discloses monitoring the target print icons to determine if the state of the printer is monitored such that the printer cannot execute processing set in the print icon, the print icon is controlled so as not to be displayed (column 6, lines 24-30), wherein Fitzpatrick teaches upon determining that the printer target is cannot do processing will ensure that the print icon is not to be displayed and not accessible for manipulation.

Referring to claim 11, Fitzpatrick discloses that the printing preview allows a user to view and confirm contents of a file to be printed without having to open the file on an application based on the combination presented for the rejection of claim 3, teaching that the information provided for previewing is done so without opening an application and where the display shows simply the items without any relation to a specific application under which the items have been accessed.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,546,527 (Fitzpatrick et al.), herein referred to as Fitzpatrick and Hemenway.

Referring to claim 4, Fitzpatrick does not explicitly imply a plurality of file icons of files to be printed being dragged and dropped on the printer icon and further determining that the files are consecutively subject to print processing. Hemenway much like Fitzpatrick, allows for a drag and drop means for dragging file documents and

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dropping them onto print icons for printing to occur, wherein Hemenway goes further to display to teach that multiple print jobs are applicable to the one print icon (Figure 5C and column 11, lines 28-31), wherein printer Spitfire discloses having multiple files icons to be printed. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Hemenway to implement a means for a plurality of file icons of files to be printed by dragging and dropping the files onto the print icon, the files being consecutively printed as a series of recorded matters. It is necessary to have a method for printing various documents, which is necessary for users of any computer system. Thus, as Hemenway teaches, the ability to drag and drop a plurality of documents on to the print source or icon allows for the print jobs to be queued to be processed consecutively, thus allowing for various documents to be printed at the same time.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to "Section 112 Rejection" have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In reference to claim 1, any negative limitation or exclusionary proviso must have basis in the original disclosure. Applicant's disclosure through Figure 2 and page 11, lines 6-24 of the specification is not sufficient in teaching that the "print conditions are displayed on the display picture in a recognizable display form **when the file icon is not located over the print icon**". This only discloses that print conditions are displayed on the display picture in a recognizable display form when the print icon is selected but not when the file icon is not located over the print icon.

8. Applicant's arguments, filed 5/1/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 3, 5-8 and 11 under Fitzpatrick in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,697,090 (Nagasaka et al.), herein referred to as Nagasaka have been fully considered and are persuasive. In view of the filing date Nagasaka being 10/2/00 and Applicant's priority date of 5/26/00, Nagasaka is not considered prior art. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Fitzpatrick, where based on the teachings provided in Fitzpatrick, claims 3, 5-8 and 11 would have been obvious.

9. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to "Claim 1" has been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is not clear what the amendments in reference to the teaching "***which limits on a specific function print processing functions***" is intended to claim. This amendment has been interpreted as the print icon having limits on specific functions that include print processing functions, which is clearly taught in Fitzpatrick. The explanation cited in the arguments (page 7, lines 7-11) of the amendments to claim 1 does not teach what has been claimed or is not made clear. Fitzpatrick does teach providing print options where the a document is printed with specific print conditions, as is displayed by the use of print parameters which sets certain conditions that is applied to the print command (column 1, lines 32-45), with the display of print parameters carried out when the file icon is not located over the print icon.

Allowable Subject Matter

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10. Claim 9 is allowed. The reasons for allowance of claim 9 have been previously disclosed in the office action mailed on 8/10/05.

Conclusion

11. Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

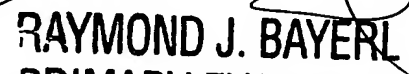
All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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